

Weekly Health Update from Pastor Jim – Weekend of February 23 & 24, 2019

Dear Friends and Family:

I am trying to get all my doctor's appointment in the month of February and early March, so that we can go again to Virginia. We have one truck coming to take about half of what we own, so that the rest can be left in our condo to be able to show it and sell it. Then we will order the final truck to pack up all the rest of our junk.

So, this week I have my General Medical Doctor appointment, Labs, Dermatologist and Pulmonary Testing. Is that enough for one week? Next week I have my urologist, my gastroenterologist and blood pressure check, since they put me on new blood pressure medicine. Enough for that week, too. My mother use to say, "if it wasn't for doctor's appointments, dentist appointments and chiropractor appointments, I wouldn't have a social life at all." I guess it is better to laugh about all this. Crying certainly does not help!

One thing I've learned in loving Jesus: It doesn't mean we get to skip hard things in life. It takes only a day or two in living to find this is true. Disappointments sometimes replace dreams. Unrealistic expectations of ourselves and others crowd out the happiness we hoped to experience.

Maybe Martha in John 11 felt similar feelings as she looked at her brother Lazarus' lifeless body. She could have thought, "If Jesus really loved us, why would He have allowed this to happen? He knows we need our brother." This tragedy could have easily been prevented if Jesus would have simply come when the sisters called for Him.

Jesus hadn't followed their plan or met their expectations when He stalled in coming to their rescue. But He had His reasons for waiting, and that is clearly explained in, John 11:4b: **"... it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."**

Jesus gave His purpose for Lazarus' illness and subsequent death to His disciples, but Mary and Martha were not there to hear His answer. Sometimes, even if we do hear His words, they are not the ones **we want** to hear. We just want our pain fixed. Or we want our cancer gone; A marriage restored; and Promotions given.

Jesus wanted them to learn that His "no" now is not always a no forever. He has the perfect timing and perfect answer to our needs. He wants our faith and confidence in Him alone, and often a no when we want a yes helps us reposition our confidence and trust when it's gotten off track.

If Jesus had come to this family's immediate rescue, there would have been no reason for the sisters to develop and exercise confidence. Often, He will build this type of confidence in uncomfortable environments.

The sisters had sent for Jesus and had offered a prayer of sorts. “Lord, he whom you love is ill” (v. 3b, ESV). They had confidence He would hear them, and they were right: He heard and answered their request in His way, and in His time.

My heart needs this hope and comfort today — this faith-booster. Confidence that we can ask anything according to His will and He hears us is what powers our prayers. Matthew 7:7-8 reminds us, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Jesus leaves no room for doubt. The answer to our prayer ... will come. Period. No, if, ands or buts about it. **Ask** ... and it will. **Seek** ... and it will. **Knock** ... and it will. This is the faith-push that empowers us. When disappointment and discouragement deplete me, God’s directives restore me.

Please join me in keeping on asking, seeking, and knocking. Pastor Jim