

God Loves and Assures

Introduction (Don Day 10/15/2017)

A testimony of God's Love towards us, that he works in our life to answer future questions and doubts.

I am amazed and thankful whenever I look back on my life. There are always key moments that come to my mind. I want to share only two of them with you today.

When I think about how God interacts with individuals it always interests me. I'm captivated when listening to someone talk about hearing from God. Many times, I wonder how that happened? What were they doing that allowed God to be so specific with them? What special relationship do they have with God? Do I or will I ever have such a relationship with God?

Unbelievably I or more likely God, started bringing back to my memory some very important times in my life that only God could have given me. In fact, they have comforted me many times, because He answered questions that I would have in my future. I would look back at these special moments and know without a doubt it was God's plan for my life! Oh, how God Loves us! He didn't give me a vision or a dream. He spoke to me through an old man I only met once, a prophetic word. He worked in my everyday life right where I was through circumstances that only He could manipulate. The questions he answered would come later as the enemy would try to tell me "You did this on your own" "You weren't meant to be" ...

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(1) I was only 14 years old. My dad bought a new (used) car from an airplane mechanic he worked with at Pan American Air Lines. I was really wanting to drive then. He had taken my sister and I driving through our neighborhood several times. He enjoyed doing things like that with us. He wanted the car, a station wagon, to take on vacation that summer. Mom took me to the DMV and I got my restricted license before our vacation. My grandmother and other family members were living on a Christian farm in Arizona. It was called Miracle Valley. I flew out early with my aunt to spend several weeks with my family there and come back home with my parents when they came later that summer. One of the best times of my life! (After I left, my wife's family met my family in Arizona and my cousins met Linda, my future wife, before I did. Those days there and my cousins telling Linda she had to meet me, are another story.) I spent a lot of time on the farm with my uncle. He drove a standard shift jeep around the orchards. The orchard trees were in rows and a large reservoir fed channels that were used to water the trees. My uncle would use a large and heavy metal siphoning tube. It had a leather flap attached to the top of it and you had to push it into the channel of water, then hold down the leather flap to the top of the tube, and then pull the tube full of water up from the channel and drop it down into the tree line to water the that row of trees. It wasn't easy but he made it look like it was! The fun part was he let me drive that standard shift jeep around and it was awesome. One afternoon my uncle and I were finished in the orchards and parked in front of the large building that was used to make records. The farm produced Christian records, packaged, and mailed them all over the country. Another source of income used to keep that little community functioning. There was an older man

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standing there talking with my uncle and at some point, my uncle introduced me. When the old man put his hand out, he put it on my shoulder. I wasn't there in prayer or asking anything special of God, but he was about to tell me something very special and important! I don't remember exactly if he shook my hand or what other motions he may have made but I'll never forget what he told my uncle. He said "Oh-my he is going to help many children". My uncle was a little surprised and I don't remember saying anything. I just knew something special just happened. I turned 15 while I was on vacation there in Miracle Valley and got hours of driving time coming home to Miami, Florida. Shortly after returning home from vacation, I met my wife to be, in church. I was only 17 years of age when we were married. We had four biological children. Our children were very young when Linda, my wife, decided to become involved with fostering children from the Catholic Children's Service Berea. About a year later with the Department of Children and Families. Linda and I were foster parents for thirty years. I never had any reservations or doubts that God didn't have His hand on us because of His words to me on that day as a teenager. Oh, there were many hard times and instances that I questioned myself. But, in the end I always had that word to stand on.

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(2) Linda started many useful programs as the Broward County Foster Parent Association President. She gave some powerful presentations and met with many important people including the State Governor. She was one of the first MAP trainers and one of the only foster parents to be one. Another first was we became a Medical Foster Home. I remember sitting in a conference room at Broward General when a nurse came out to talk with us. She asked me if I had ever had a “Downs” baby. I told her no. She told me; “You’re going to love it! They are so loving”. Something clicked right then, and I knew something different was about to happen in our lives. Of course, we were given Jimmy. We won’t go into all the medical issues but, there is a special bond that a parent grows with a child as they go through doctors and hospitals together. That was very true with us and Jimmy. Now, we had never considered adoption and our house was full of children as always. We felt the Lord had given Linda a gift to work with families of the children in our home. When DCF put children, we had up for adoption Linda always seemed to find a forever family, ready for that child. We knew it was just the way God was using us. So, I had no fears when one of the physical therapists that regularly came to our home fell in love with Jimmy. I just saw it as, another God thing. We proceeded as usual with DCF. She, Jimmy’s therapist, was engaged to be married to a great young man working with sports. At that time, he worked with the Orange Bowl Comity and attended the University of Miami. The background checks were completed, and the studies finished. Everything was a go for Jimmy’s adoption. We would fly with Jimmy to Boston for the wedding. Then bring him home until the honeymoon was over, they were back to work, and in their home. What could go wrong? This is the way God had always worked these things out

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in the past! We knew they both loved Jimmy. The day came, we flew to Boston. Her parents were very nice. The house was amazing. They put Linda, Jimmy, and I in a beautiful bed and breakfast. Jimmy and I were playing together and having such a great time. At the family dinner everyone was loving on Jimmy, but he wasn't feeling well and started fussing. He had to be brought back to me, and he settled down. For the first time in all our years of foster care I had that feeling of loss. I didn't know how I would be able to watch Jimmy go! I had to put my trust in the Lord. For myself, Linda, and Jimmy! The wedding went well the pictures were beautiful and the bride and groom left for Europe. We left for home with Jimmy. A few weeks went by. I started asking every night as I got home from work, what is happening? Are they back from the honeymoon? Then DCF started asking. Well, they did come home from their honeymoon but they had been gone almost two months. Much longer than was planned. Then the next unexpected thing happened. Two very educated people that had very good jobs before getting married and leaving for their honeymoon, had lost their jobs and couldn't find anyone to hire them! And ...DCF was asking and concerned! How could that happen! I started to feel God wouldn't let them work until Jimmy was ours. I was starting to get excited!!! Long story short. DCF came and asked us if we wanted to adopt Jimmy. NO Hesitation!!! YES!!! I felt God telling us, you gave him to me and I'm giving him back to you! You never have to be afraid that you took Jimmy! I, the Lord created the circumstances that put him in your home and your heart! What an amazing God and Savior we serve ... ❤️

Now, think back ...God has been working in your life as well ...!!!!