

"I Have Heard Your Prayer"

"I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you" (2 Kings 20:5).

Our brother Tom Fuoco and his family have been walking through a very challenging time since early last fall. He recently sent me the thoughts that are printed below. Since that time he has been admitted to the Cleveland Clinic and surgery is imminent. We so appreciate the family's commitment to Christ, their trust in Him and their graciousness during a very stressful time. All of our prayers and support have been important. - *Pastor Mason*

Last October I suffered an acute aortic dissection (a tear in the linings of the body's largest blood vessel). God saved my life by allowing me to receive the medical care I needed, including surgery to replace the damaged portion of my aorta. Immediately after surgery, God began his healing process in my body. I was able to return to work within one month. Yet, a few days later, I passed out and returned to the hospital. At that time, the doctors learned that my heart had become swollen and weak. To this day the doctors do not know why that occurred. We have, however, learned that I have a genetic disorder which caused the initial aortic tear. Recently we learned that the rest of my aorta is tearing. My entire aorta, and portions of other affected arteries, will soon have to be replaced.

Many of you heard my testimonies of how God was healing me. When hearing this new information, some may question whether my testimonies were true, or merely just hopeful expressions. The truth is, God absolutely, without doubt, is healing me. My heart is now twice as strong as it was last November. That is a miracle that will reduce the risks of my next surgery. Also, I will come out of this with an entirely new aorta; one that will never tear or cause me further pain. Praise God, He is healing me!

Even in illness and disability, we need to recognize these truths: 1) God is always with us, whether or not we feel it at a particular moment (Matt. 28:20b). 2) God's vision and plan is far greater than our own (Eph. 3:20-21). 3) There is a mystery to God and the way He works in our lives (Isaiah 55:8). as seen throughout the Gospels, this includes many different ways that Jesus heals us. Rather than asking, "Why is this happening to me?" we should ask, "What can I learn from God, and about God, through this?" (Jer. 29:11-13) and "How can I use this situation to minister to others?" (I Pet. 4:10-11). Ultimately, the answers to those questions will draw us closer to the all-knowing, all-powerful and all-loving creator of the universe, who sent His only begotten Son to take on all of the sin and suffering that has affected each of our lives (Eph. 3:16-19).

Thanks,
Tom
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