

What a Day

Leanna Bolden Eternally Speaking Now

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"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth." *Proverbs 27:1*

If there's one way I could summarize the past few weeks, it would be this: You never know **what a day** may bring.

Within fewer than 20 days, I've witnessed a strangely large number of unexpected, near-miss occurrences that have hit uncomfortably close to home:

- A tornado came dangerously near our rental property in Texas, and then another tornado went straight through the town where a best friend lives.
- Lightning struck so closely to my sister-in-law's home in Tennessee that my niece felt it in her cell phone. Then, lightning struck right outside our church here in Illinois, blowing out some equipment and literally shooting a power surge through my body.
- My dad had a small stroke and took a hard fall, then my father-in-law fell.
- A vehicle came within feet of ramming into our car, a niece's boyfriend had a motorbike accident and concussion, my parents' car was hit by a motorcycle, and a close friend with her five children were slammed by a delivery truck driver who had fallen asleep at the wheel.
- After all this, Zach broke his finger.

Between the time I began this blog and the time I ended it, two mega-church pastors stepped down from their positions due to issues of grave sin. One was the pastor of the church we attended in Texas (after our church plant), and the situation is wreaking havoc for many dear friends.

Never in my life have I been personally affected by this many negative things in such a short span of time.

And I'm not the only one.

After I mentioned this, several sisters in Christ each informed me of their own lists of weird, off-the-wall incidents that have recently occurred to their families as well.

What on earth is happening? Simply stated, a lot on earth is happening. My guess is it will continue to intensify, and if we don't feel it yet, we will soon.

We are in the **end days.** Scripture explains that as we progress through this part of the biblical timeline, not only will wars, famines, pestilences, offenses, betrayal, hatred, and persecution increase (Matthew 24), but also these things will be coupled with intensified personal afflictions and challenges.

2 Timothy 3 warns that in the **last days**, "**perilous times will come: for** men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

What does this have to do with a tornado, a near-miss accident, or my son's broken finger? *Everything*.

As we progress through these **end days**, we will have more and more opportunities to react to the intensity of difficulties with prideful, ungrateful, unforgiving, unloving attitudes. Many professing Christians will be faced with the opportunity to slander God Himself...and will be deceived into doing so. Let that not be true of us!

"But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:13-15

> While we may wake up every morning and realize "You never know **what a day** may bring," I'm provoked to immediately follow that claim with an emphatic, *"...but GOD."*

- Yes, tornadoes blew through our town, **but God** protected us and our property.
- Yes, accidents have happened to people close to us, **but** every person involved was unscathed.
- Yes, the health of older loved ones is declining, **but Jesus** continues to show Himself strong as their Rehabilitator.
- Yes, Zach's finger broke, **but God's** timing has been perfect, bringing his window of healing up to the very week before football season begins.
- Yes, tragedies that cause shock, grief, and weeping are coming to light amongst the Lord's people, **but God** is purifying His Bride and separating the sheep from the goats. Just like He said He would.

"**But Leanna**," you may say, "my tragedies *haven't* ended well. I *can't* say, '...**but God.**"

I understand. I truly do. I've had situations that concluded in deep sorrow. The truth is, every day throughout the world, there's a loved one who *does* die, an accident that *is* fatal, a tornado that *does* take innocent life. So, what do we do with that?

What if "...but, God" *always* applies, despite a situation's outcome?

Please don't hear this with an insensitive tone. If you know me well, you know I naturally weep with those who weep and mourn with those who mourn. I can't help it. I've shed tears yet again this morning, distraught by the brokenness and suffering of sin in the world.

That said, deep inside, I'm convinced there is freedom in embracing the perspective of "...but, God," *no matter what*.

Whatever the devastation, I'm *positive* that God wants us to focus more on Him than on the incident itself.

We can do that by falling down before Him, talking with Him, listening to Him, and seeking His heart.

Lord, what do **You** want me to learn about You through this? Lord, what do **You** want me to learn about humanity and sin through this? Lord, what do **You** want me to see about myself as I process this? Lord, what *Scriptures do* **You** want to speak to me right now? God knows the past, the present, and the future. Trust Him. He has it all taken care of, and nothing has taken Him by surprise.

"Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure...'" Isaiah 46:9-10

CHALLENGE

The day after my parents were hit by the motorcyclist, my sister said something profound.

"**What if** God, knowing that He'd protect Mom and Dad and keep them from harm, chose to permit the car accident because He wanted to give that 19-year old motorcyclist a wake-up call? **What if** He counted our parents worthy of that calling?"

That young man had come out of the middle of nowhere and was driving way too fast. His free will was leading him down the path of death and destruction. **But God**, by His sovereignty and through His deep love for both the 19-year old and my parents, knowing the number of their days, let things fall into place as they did, in order to get that man's attention. And my parents' attention. And mine. *And yours*.

What if there's a reason for everything?

After reading the Bible over ten times cover to cover, I wholeheartedly believe there is, and that, in a realm of understanding that exceeds human grasp, those reasons are good.

One day everything will make sense. **One day** we'll have answers. **One day** the puzzle pieces will finally fit together, and we'll behold the bigger picture. The somehow-good-picture. The God picture.

Until then, look up, fellow believers. Make today count for eternity. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus while still standing here on earth. And don't lose sight of the biblical timeline in which we dwell.

In a little while, God will **wipe away every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There will be no more pain, for the former things will pass away.** (Revelation 21)

May these words console you afresh today, in light of your present afflictions. Jesus is coming for us soon! Oh, **what a day** *that* will be.

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