

God Does Not Abandon the Faithful

By Earl Barnes

This has been an amazing, terrifying yet triumphant several weeks. I want to share with all of you that, if you keep your faith, God will help you get through your life no matter what you might face!

I have struggled with diabetes for a very long time; but this year proved to be the most difficult. I was in and out of the hospital since January with diabetic foot ulcers and deep infections. In February, I had the big toe on one foot amputated.

I developed another deep infection later in the summer and, from that time on, it all went downhill. My wife and I would pray to God asking for patience and His support. We both knew that if we kept our faith and talked to God; He would get us through any problems.

I was hospitalized again in late July with a severe foot infection, resulting from complications from the toe amputation in February. Four days later I went in for another surgery and this time they took off all the toes from that foot. It was uncomfortable and the estimated recovery time was not pleasant, but the infection was gone.

Then more complications happened. The hospital staff gave me a very strong pain medication and my body had a serious reaction. I stopped breathing and my body began to shut down, including my kidneys. I could not speak or swallow or move any limbs: I was only able to turn my head now and then and I would lay in bed this way for four days; not being able to tell my family how much I loved them.

My wife requested that priesthood members come and administer to me. When they arrived I could see them at my bedside and I heard them talking, but could only respond by blinking my eyes. It was the most terrifying experience I have ever had! Many prayers had gone out on behalf of my wife and I and I know it is not necessary to tell my church family about the Power of Prayer, but I want to share my testimony as a way for me to let God and them to know I never gave up on my faith!

When I was able to speak sentences, I told my wife about seeing two angels in my room; one at the side of my bed and the other at my feet. While they never spoke, they were there giving me comfort and I knew that God sent them. I asked my wife later why they did not speak. She told me there are times that God will send angels to people who need their presence to know that God loves them and that He is keeping them safe. It is a way for us to keep our faith strong and continue to trust in God and Jesus.

As I write this, about 10 days since that incident, I am at home with Home Health Nurses to keep track of my care. I have been told it may take a couple of months for my kidneys to return to a normal function. And, though it may take some time, I have faith that God will get me through all of these health issues.

So that is my story, so far. I hope it will give someone a faith boost and that it will remind them that no matter what life brings you, **ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE** if we **KEEP GOD and JESUS AT OUR SIDES**.