

GOD DIDN'T DO THAT TO YOU!

Donna R. Jensen

John Osteen tells the story of how one of the first people he led to the Lord as a new convert was his sister Mary. She became very involved in the church and before long she was the secretary. She readily received every teaching that came along, even the one that said illness and disease were gifts from God to enable us to grow spiritually. She wasn't very old when John received a call that she was at death's door.

He brought along another minister and went to visit her. She lay in bed in a darkened room. Going to one of the heavily draped windows, he pulled them apart just enough to see her. As he stood by her side, he picked up her limp hand and held it. He said that as he gazed down on her emaciated body, righteous indignation rose up in him. His voice trembling, he said, "Mary, God didn't do this to you! In the name of Jesus, rise and be healed!!!"

Immediately she threw back the covers, jumped out of bed, ran across the room, and bounced off the wall. He and the other minister caught her in the middle of the room as she ran back... They prayed for her to be filled with the Holy Spirit and she was. She got dressed and returned to work, her health completely restored.

Friends, it is up to you and I to read and properly discern the word of God with the help of the Holy Spirit and godly teachers. Jesus said that we err when we know not the scriptures nor the power of God. Matthew 22:29

When we make Jesus Christ Lord of our lives and follow Him obediently, there is nothing to fear, Romans 8:28, because all things will then work together for our good. All things that come to us, must be filtered through the hand of God. How we choose to walk with God and His ultimate purpose for our lives will determine what passes through that filter to us. Then our attitude and co-operation with the Holy Spirit will determine what God can do with what life hands us. When it was happening, "Good Friday" seemed pretty "bad."

God personally selects what we need to develop the maturity we will need to finish well in life. As a new convert, I made the young lady discipling me nervous when I told her I had asked God to take me and do whatever He needed to do to me to prepare me for His use. She asked why I would do that. I replied that I might as well co-operate with God. ☺

Will you?

