

Saturday - March 30

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

There are so many ways in my life that I have experienced God's grace, through blessings that I have done nothing to deserve. I've been blessed with a wonderful family, been healed from serious illnesses, had successful career opportunities, and experienced many small gifts of God's grace every day.

One recent experience of grace that stands out for me was in the recent illness and death of my brother, Byron. Three years ago, he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and underwent chemo, radiation, and a grueling surgery. After two years, as he was beginning to recover and return to a normal life; again, he was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. It was a terrible blow to all of our family. Through it all I prayed and begged God to heal him and to make his treatments tolerable. But his healing was not to be. The last time I visited Byron, just weeks before his death, he said, "You know, through all of this, I never once had any nausea or pain." I believe that was God's gift of grace. He didn't take away the cancer, but he helped my brother through two of the worst types of cancer without pain. As I thought about Byron's words, I also received a gift of grace in helping me to deal with his death. This was my assurance that God had been with him all along, holding his hand and maybe even grieving with us.

Joy

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we take comfort in knowing that you are always with us, even when we question what is happening in our lives. Help us to remember that your grace is a gift that we receive as your unmerited favor because you love us. Amen.