

Saturday - March 20

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength...
Ephesians 1:18-19 (NIV)*

A few summers back, my friend Cathy and I took a drive to Wooster to see our friend. We covered lots of geographic and verbal territory. I was telling a silly story of leaving my sunroof open and drenching my car. It led to sharing how my Joyce Meyer book got a little water logged, and then transitioned to how I admired Ms. Meyer's ministry and writing. I said that I couldn't fathom Ms. Meyer's courageousness in surviving her father's sexual abuse. And then with a jolt of reality, Cathy looked at me and said, "I can." I was shocked to learn that from ages 5 to 12, Cathy was the victim of her stepfather's twisted abuse. But the thing that kept turning over in my head was how in our multi-year friendship I didn't know. Cathy is one of the most fun, sensitive and kind people I know and I couldn't reconcile how some trace of bitterness didn't penetrate her personality and her love of humanity. I said some of my words out loud because honestly, I was mad for her and her five year old self and for victims everywhere. For Cathy, her perseverance came through manifesting attributes to create her healing... the main one being forgiveness. Several months after our drive Cathy dug deep into her faith and wrote her book, *From Broken to Beautifully Whole*.

Survivorship is remarkable, sharing pain is courageous and finding a path to healing instills hope for all.

Although I fear my words fall short, I believe anyone who has suffered and still reached for another day is the personification of HOPE.

Dana

Prayer: Loving God, may your light of goodness shine a path of hope for all. Amen.