

Saturday - March 12

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

James 1:5 (NASB)

It was the end of a typical day in the operating room, and I was exhausted. The day was full of stressful and challenging operative procedures. The usual headaches of not enough staff, over booked cases and the physical demands of standing for long hours (while wearing masks, hats and sterile gowns that hold in body heat and moisture). As I was driving home, I began to reflect on the day and wonder if it was time to leave such a high stress environment for a desk job. Maybe it was time to turn over the keys to the younger staff? Where would I go; what would I do? Many questions. No answers. I turned to God, and I asked Him: God, you know me, you know this is rough on this senior nurse. Should I stay...should I go somewhere else...can you give me a clear, definitive answer because I absolutely want to know it's from you!

Minutes later, I pulled into my driveway, got out of the car and walked to the mailbox. Inside were bills, bills, advertisements...and...a card!?

The card was addressed to me and was from a patient that I had taken care of several weeks ago. This patient wanted me to know how grateful she was that I was there for her when she needed surgery. Her case had been cancelled once and had been in jeopardy of a second cancellation. The doctor was going to cancel the second surgery unless someone with experience was in the room to manage the case. A call was made to me (35+ years experience), and I agreed to come in on my off shift to get her surgery done. She had learned about me volunteering to help with her surgery and reached out to let me know that she was grateful for my response to her need. I was stunned. I had just minutes before asked God for a clear answer and here it was. The card had been sent two days before I asked the question...a clear sign that it was a response, it was clear, and it was from God. This card contained 100% of all the elements that I had asked for. The answer was stay...you are needed...nursing is the field that I want you to stay in...your work is not done...and your work is useful and effective.

The following day at our morning safety huddle, prior to starting surgery, I shared with my team exactly what I had just experienced. It was difficult to read the card, as my eyes were all watered up. I concluded with this challenge to my fellow nurses....if you are unsure...if you question and want answers...if you have doubts and seek wisdom....ask it of God. Ask Him to be clear and specific and expect Him to answer. He answered me in dramatic fashion, which made it clear to me. I am here to stay as my mission is not completed.

David

Prayer: Lord God, walk each day with me and show me what Your will is. When I have doubts, when I am afraid and when I am exhausted, help me to be strong, confident and trust that You are with me. Amen.