

THE BOOK THAT SAVED MY LIFE

As a child, I was always drawn to my mother's big, beautiful, old Bible. When I was ever in trouble, I'd carry it into my room and read it, looking for answers to my problems. Years later, when tragedy struck my life, the words that I remembered from that old book came back to save my life!

I had been married for 10 years and had four beautiful, young children. My husband, Nick, and I owned two businesses that stayed open late. On July 11, 1978, I closed my store and drove home. It was a warm, moonlit, summer night and a light breeze was coming in off Lake Erie. I remember getting out of the car - then everything happened fast!

A robber was waiting for me! I remember running. I remember a noise, like fireworks, I remember falling. I remember the intruder, running away, I lay there, trying to gather my thoughts. I reached down to my waist and my hand came back with clumps of blood. I knew I was running out of time. As I lay there, feeling my life leaving me, some words I'd read in my mother's old Bible flashed into my mind, ..

"God is faithful. He will not let you be tried beyond your ability to endure," (I Corinthians 10:13).

These words gave me hope. As I fought to remain conscious, I prayed this prayer to God, **"Please let me live to see my children grow up!"** The ambulance came. I felt a peace and let go ...

I had been shot 6 times in the back and I was paralyzed. I spent 6 months in the hospital. Finally, I got to go HOME! The kids! My prayer was answered ... I would see my children grow up! It was wonderful to be back, but many new problems now challenged me and my marriage. My husband could not cope well with all the changes and soon we were divorced.

I could have been angry. I could have been bitter. I could have given up. But the words in my mother's old bible kept running through my mind ... ***"Be assured and understand that the trial of your faith brings out endurance and steadfastness and patience. "* (James 1:3).**

I wanted to be thankful for all the things I still had. I wanted to make the best out of what was left. I remembered that we are given trials of many kinds to develop our character and strength. I remembered that God has a reason for all things...

Twenty-nine years have passed since that night, and looking back, I can truly see God's hand in my life. My children are all grown and now I am watching my beautiful grandchildren grow up!

My husband and I have remarried. We have both grown closer to God through our experiences, and are happy and thankful today. I don't dwell on the negative, or question "why" things happen. Sometimes it seems Impossible to see the reason or to accept what's happened, but don't give up! The bible says that ***"All things work together and are fitting into a plan for good for those who love God and are called according to His design and purpose, "* (Romans 8:28).**

Patience, prayer and my faith In Jesus Christ are what helped me through. I have learned to accept things as they come and put my faith in God to ***"work them together for my good ... "***.

We all have so much to be thankful for; things we take for granted or things we don't even recognize. With the "new eyes" God has given me, I see many things as blessings that I never even noticed before. One of my grand-daughters once told me, "Grandma, today Is 7-11, your lucky day!" "No, no!" I told her, "That is the day I was shot!" To that she replied, "No, Grandma, it is the day you lived!"

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I thank God for my life. I have never been happier. I thank God for my grandchildren and my children and my husband. But most of all, I thank God for my mother's old Bible and the hope and the strength that God's Word has given me! It is **the book that "saved my life"!**

I thank you for reading this tract. If you were encouraged by my testimony, you may want to access our web-site. There you will find many other such stories of men and women who have come to know the same wonderful God in the same way, through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, His Son. Or come visit me sometime at my church and I'll be glad to show you a copy of ***"the book that saved my life"!***

May God bless you as you seek Him,

Barbara J. V

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