

TRIAL BY FIRE?

On April 1, 2015, my 38-year-old daughter Rachel passed away unexpectedly, without any warning. She was a healthy vibrant young woman, happily married for 10 years and had been trying to conceive for the past three year. She had no health issues that we were aware of, she had seen the doctor on Monday just to establish care since she had recently moved to the area.

The doctor gave her a thorough check up including lab work. She was given a clean bill of health. On Wednesday, Rachel died. She had taken a short drive to see the Texas blue bonnets in bloom and then after coming home she took photos of the beautiful fields full of flowers on her own property in Montgomery, TX. She went to the barn to share her photos with her husband and then said, I don't feel right. He said, "should I call 911". Rachel, an ER nurse herself said "No, just take me to the house". Those were her last words. Her heart stopped on the spot and never kicked back in again with a regular beat.

When we got the call that Rachel was in the ambulance on her way to the hospital, I never imagined for one minute (NEVER) that she would not make it. I told her husband, "she will be OK". We prayed and trusted her to God. We hurriedly packed and headed for the airport. On the way to the airport we got the news that Rachel "was with God now". A complete autopsy was done, with no real answer as to why Rachel died. It was like she had been raptured. She was,... and then she was not.

Joe, my husband and I began the processes of asking why? What happened? HOW could this happen? We are people of faith. We trust the Lord the best we know how. We have seen the dead rise. None of it made any sense.

The first few days I thought I might die myself. The shock was so devastating. I loved her so much. How could I ever get through this?

Then Rachel began to show up in my dreams and speak unknown things to me. Later, I had a vision of her receiving her glorified body. It was like nothing I had ever seen. Space here does not permit me to share the glorious details. Although I would like to do that someday.

Joe and I feel like we have been through the fire, but we have grown and learned so much. We are more tender hearted, compassionate people, we pray for every ambulance that we hear, we love more deeply, forgive more readily. We make a greater effort to accept others just as they are. Isaiah 43:2 promises us "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you, when you walk through the fire you will not be burned: neither shall the flames kindle upon thee.

At Rachel's memorial service, one Dr. said, "Rachel lived more in 38 years than I have in 70." Perhaps, Rachel lived her promised 70 years in her 38 years after all. The Father has been very gracious unto us. As the Aaronic Blessing says in Numbers 6:24-26 "YHVH bless you and keep you, YHVH make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, YHVH lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. He is doing this daily for us.

We want to thank the many who have prayed us through this trial and let you know we felt your prayers.

Thank you.