

Surprise! Let God Make You Smile During COVID19

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A woman who is diagnosed with lymph node cancer (she had colon cancer and skin cancer prior to this) finds out that the possible chemotherapy and radiation is cancelled. The doctors tell her that the tumor she has is benign!

A young mother, pregnant with her third child is diagnosed with a blood clot the size of the baby inside her. Three days later the blood clot that could have ended the pregnancy tragically, has now dried up and cannot be found.

A salesman calls and the Christian who answers asks one question, "How have you been doing during the pandemic?" He begins to blurt out his battle with depression and psychiatric issues. The Christian is then able to minister to him on multiple levels even though he is seven states away, and he is now on the daily prayer list.

These are true examples of how God has intervened during the last few months in people's lives. We call them "miracles" or "blessings" or "favor." They haven't been earned; we are not entitled to these in any way; and we cannot perceive them as just circumstance or coincidence alone. It is just the nature of our Father in heaven to give us His goodness. "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed are those who take refuge in him." (Psalm 34:8 | TBIV)

These welcome intrusions can be very tiny, like finding a parking place right up front of a very jammed parking lot, or getting to the cash register just as a new line opens up. The time and energy this occurrence saves is gratefully received.

At other times, God pops into our day-to-day existence in very huge ways, like when the career musician finds the Steinway grand piano of their dreams and the money shows up the next day so they can pay cash. Another couple has prayed for their alcoholic son for years, when suddenly he turns his life completely around and hasn't had a drink for over a decade.

Yes, sometimes, it seems as if we have diligently prayed and fasted for God's sends forever. Other times, we are startled, because Father God shows up suddenly at the right place and the right time to demonstrate His love for us when we least expect it. Yet the unexpected is just around the corner...

Consider the barren Danite woman who heard, "Surprise! you're going to conceive and give birth to a son!" and as for you, "Be sure that you don't drink wine or anything intoxicating, and don't eat anything unclean," "because the young man will be a Nazirite

dedicated to God from inside the womb' until the day he dies." (Judges 13:5) ISV. The woman's child was Samson.

Can you imagine what John the Baptist thought when he met Jesus, not as his cousin, but as his Messiah? He was just doing his daily task of baptizing the people in the muddy Jordan, and look Who showed up? What a privilege that must have been!

The disciples were surely caught off-guard with any of the many miracles Jesus performed, but feeding the 5000 had to be quite unsettling. They expected Him to send them to get food somewhere, not use a kid's lunch to satisfy a hungry mob! It completely turned around disciple Philip's faith in Jesus.

Your God, the Holy One you worship, is not just out there somewhere, not understanding what you are going through during this time. He is relevant to His beloved people and has shown Himself faithful throughout the generations. As horrific as COVID19 is, nothing can compare with the genocides of the past and what evil man has done to man.

We need to see Him in the midst of our circumstance on a consistent, faith-based level. We also need to give Him glory for the ways He has bestowed favor on us, how He has provided blessings small and large, and for His miracle-working power within our lives. Remember your salvation has saved you from the clutches of hell!

We should be excitedly looking on tiptoe to see Him working in the here and now.

So ready yourself for a divine surprise, and sing with me, woman of God!

"Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders which You have done,
And Your thoughts toward us;
There is none to compare with You.
If I would declare and speak of them,
They would be too numerous to count."
Psalm 40:5 (NAS)