

# Make A List

I like to read. The problem is, I rarely have enough time to do much "casual" reading. I did start reading "The Chronicles of Narnia" to the kids about November....then we took a break around Christmas and haven't gotten back into it yet. (Maybe I'll read a little to them tonight.)

Anyway, I had also started a book called "90 Minutes in Heaven," way back in the early summer months. I know, like I said, I barely have time to get the necessities done....:) But for some reason, I had put this book down and not picked it back up until this past week. I think I know why. Seems like God always knows when we need something....and more importantly, when we are going to be more open to accepting what he is suggesting.

This book that I finally picked up to finish is about a man who was pronounced dead after a serious car accident .....to make a long story short.....he ends up "coming back" after 90 minutes of being dead. (There is A LOT more to the story....obviously.) I guess you'll have to read the book to find out all the details.

The majority of the book is written about how he copes with his life, his injuries, and his disabilities, etcetera, after seeing Heaven.

It has been a very interesting book, but there is one particular event that has really stuck in my head since I read it...(remember God's timing is perfect) .... just the other day when I decided to start reading again. Surprisingly, this thought that has stuck with me has nothing to do with his peek of what Heaven is like, but about how he finally learned how to move forward with his life here on earth.

It is a story within a story, and it inspired the author of my book....as well as it inspired me.

He tells of a man who lost his vision and who afterwards, turned sour. SO sour to the world, that most of his friends eventually stop visiting - which makes him all the more sour. This

man spent all of his time thinking about all of the things he was no longer able to do. He couldn't drive, play sports, look at a magazine, etc. He was mad at the world and consumed with his newfound inabilities.

One day, a very close friend stopped in to see this man. He listened as the man went on about what he couldn't do, as he had done on so many previous occasions. The friend took it all in and then asked the blind man to do him a favor. He asked the blind man to make a list of all of the things that he COULD do.

The blind man half-laughed sarcastically, but after the friend made a plea, he agreed to "try." Even though he couldn't write them down.... his friend suggested he make a recording of the list.

The friend stopped by a few weeks later and the attitude of the blind man had changed drastically. When he asked what had happened to make this change, he was told this:

"I had spent so much of the last several months of my life mourning, complaining and longing for the things I used to be able to do. After I started making the list you asked me to make of the things that I am still able to do, I realized that I was missing out on so much living!"

I can still smell flowers, I can still feel the warmth of the sunshine, I can still learn....."

On and on the blind man went. His list, he told his friend, had reached over 1,000! And he was still keeping track.

The blind man finally realized that by spending his life wanting something he would never have, he had wasted precious time he could have spent enjoying what things he did still have.

Okay, I realize this has not a lot to do with horses directly, but it really hit me hard. Oh, how often I think about how things will be

"when this happens or that happens...." and how "I will finally be happy when I get this done or that done....." So many things to look forward to (not a bad thing- necessarily...) but what about the things right in front of me? What if sometimes we get so consumed with the "what ifs" and the "if onlys" that we don't enjoy the "here and nows."

My kids are growing up. (Like they all tend to do....) I keep thinking about how I will spend more time with them when I can finally stay at home and work from the house. What this little section of this book made me realize is this... We are not guaranteed tomorrow. We are not guaranteed another hour, or even another minute. But what we are given is the present. The moment that we are living right now.

This little story made me ask myself, am I enjoying this moment? Am I spending it with knots in my stomach or with a bad attitude? Am I spending it with the ones I love? Am I spending it how God would have me to spend it? Am I spending it being a light for the one who timed it just right for me to read that little story when I would be able to absorb it and really appreciate it?

I know all of the clichés.

"Make every moment count...."

"Live like you were dyin'...."

"Live life to the fullest...."

"You only live once...."

"Count your blessings...."

I could go on and on. But I never really put much thought into what they all meant.

Not until I read about the blind man.

Until next month....

Make list of what you can still do.

Happy Trails & God Bless!

Christa

## Last & most important thought...

Jesus died on the cross as the final sacrifice. When He was resurrected on the 3rd day, he defeated Satan for us. All we have to do is believe that He beat death and acknowledge it with our words. If we believe that and accept Him as our personal savior...we are promised eternal life with Him in Heaven. You can't earn your way into Heaven; you have to believe your way there. So many people think they "aren't good enough" to get to Heaven... But... Salvation is a GIFT from God and you don't earn a gift. Gifts are something someone gives to you and for the gift to be yours, you have to accept it. All we have to do is accept that wonderful gift. I know I have...won't you?

***But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. Romans 5:15***

***For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16***

***That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10: 9-10***