

This is the Day...Friday

September 17, 2021

Turn the Page

“It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” (Deuteronomy 31:8)

In her younger years, my Mom was an avid reader. As a child, I would go to the local public library with her and Mom would pick out several choices to read. Mom had a rather eclectic taste in books. She would read romance novels, mystery novels, John Grisham crime novels, and occasionally a biography of an important person in history. She would read them so quickly that I used to make fun of her by saying that she would eat books! When Mom was running low on selections, occasionally she would choose to read a horror thriller. You know, like something from Stephen King. I never understood why she wanted to read a book that would frighten her, and it was fun to watch her face contort as she turned the page, fearful of what she might read next.

Mom always encouraged me to read some of the books she had chosen. I was hesitant because I did not want to read one of those scary books or one of those mushy romance novels. But Mom would choose the book for me, and I would begin to read. As I think back on that time, I never worried about what she gave me to read. I trusted Mom and as I read from one chapter to the next, I knew that she would guide me to read something interesting and even educational. I knew she would protect me from the scary things.

In many ways, our lives are like a book. There is a beginning and an end. In between, life is broken down into many chapters. From childhood to young adult to parenting to middle age to grandparent and so on. With each new day a page is turned in our lives. With each new season of life, a new chapter begins. Some chapters end abruptly. Some end with loss and pain. Sometimes we can become afraid of what the next chapter may bring. Will I face something scary? Am I going to be able to handle this next chapter in life?

Recently, Ronda bought me a picture that hangs on the wall in my office at home. The picture reads, “I trust the next chapter because I know the author.” Just as I trusted Mom as I read from chapter to chapter in her books, we must learn to trust God as we travel through the chapters of our lives. Even when one chapter ends abruptly, God goes before us to make a way for us as the next chapter begins. He encourages us to face each new chapter fearlessly. He asks us to trust Him as we turn each page of life, even though we are unsure of what each new day may bring. He wrote the book. We already know the final outcome. Ultimately, all is justified, and Love wins. On this day God has given you, turn the page with boldness. Enter the next chapter courageously. You know the author of this great book. Trust the next chapter.