

Spiritual Reflection for July 2018

When We Don't Fully Understand

I sat down to complete an application for attending a certification course. I have filled out a number of applications for various things over the years and was certain this would not take long. The first question, however, caused me to pause and wonder just how to present my answer. It asked me to explain why I was interested in this certification. The real answer is, I am not sure. How can we answer questions when we don't fully understand?

This might seem like a silly predicament, but so often I am called to do something and cannot explain why I am doing it. Something tells me I should go to a particular place, call a certain person, take a different road home, make an unplanned stop at the store and I follow through even when I don't understand. This has happened over the years more times than I can tell you. What I have come to believe is that each of these last minute decisions is part of a bigger plan. I accept that I do not always need to understand, but I do need to trust there is a reason.

The program I am applying for will fill no immediate need, yet I am compelled to pursue it. I am being called to do something that would not make sense to most people. Based on my history I am trusting that it is preparing me for something I will be called to do in the future. I don't know that, but I sense it within my spirit. Following my spirit may not be an acceptable answer on an application, but it is the answer I have at this time.

How often do things happen in our lives that we simply do not understand? For some things we may never have an explanation for why things happened the way they did. Often the question why is for more difficult circumstances than my simple application question, but the same response applies. We have to trust that there is a bigger picture we cannot see. We have to trust that everything that happens has an effect on something else.

When you feel called to do something that is outside of your normal routine, I encourage you to think it through, pray about it, make sure it is not going to cause you or anyone else harm and follow through. You cannot know the impact your smile will have on someone struggling through their day, heavily burdened with loss, feeling hopeless. During an unplanned grocery store stop you might be the only person all day that takes the time to help someone who feels alone, uncared for. When someone comes into your heart and mind, give them a call, maybe they need to hear a friendly voice.

There are several verses in the bible that encourage us to trust without question and I find myself referring to them often. One of my favorite verses is found in Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust

in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths”.

Whether you are suddenly facing a change you didn't want or you are being moved to do something that wasn't on your to do list, trust that there is a higher purpose. It is the best way to approach life when we don't fully understand.

Questions to ponder:

Where do I seek understanding?

When was I called to do something that wasn't on my calendar?

What happened when I followed an unusual decision to do something?

Where is God in my desire to understand what is happening in my life?

May God's Peace be Yours,

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Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7