



# *Innovative Truth*

## *Bringing Scripture to Life*

September 2024

Dear friend,

On behalf of Tonya and I, allow me to humbly thank all the partners of Innovative Truth who have poured love, prayers and gifts on Tonya since the horrific assault she suffered last month. She says the compassion she feels from you has helped her tremendously. I won't say Tonya is "ok". She is struggling daily, so we thank you for your continued prayers as she surrenders the trauma she's feeling to God. I was able to talk her into joining me in OKC last week so we could enjoy a day at the Oklahoma State Fair.

In my conversations with people, we all agree, Tonya was the exact person God placed there to protect 6 year old Marien, because Tonya has proven she will say **YES** to God no matter what He asks of her. We've watched her say **YES** to God in countless situations when she may not understand His "why" and when many would hesitate. That's a powerful

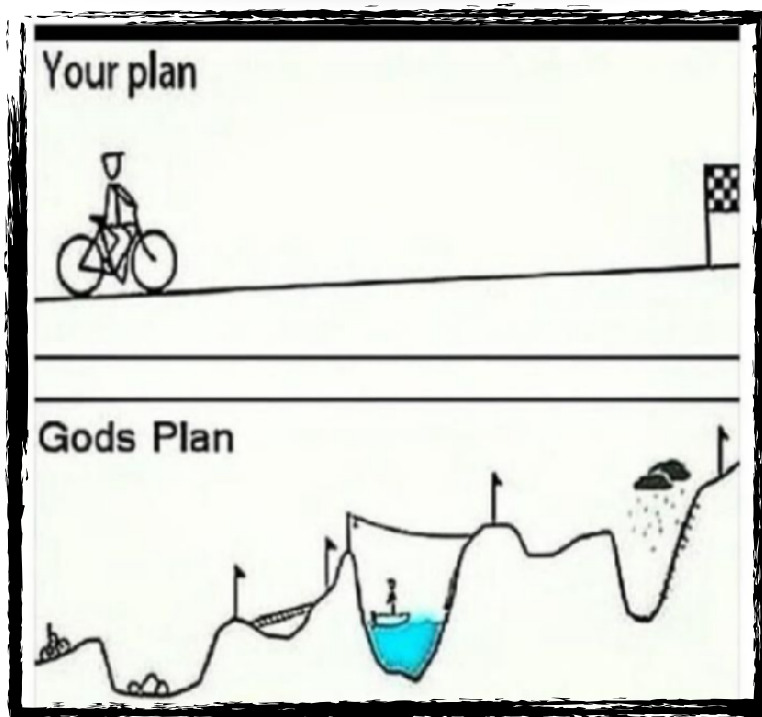
lesson for all of us. It reminded me of a blog post Tonya wrote. I'd like to share it here:



*"If God conceded His omnipotence to me for 24 hours, I'd want to make some changes in the world, but if He gave me His full wisdom, I bet I would leave things just as they are."*

I vividly remember 26 years ago when my precious newborn, Luciano, at just a few weeks old was not gaining weight. His pediatrician wanted to draw blood

to run tests. As I held Luciano, she pulled out what looked to me as a monster of a needle. I will never forget that moment as Luciano stared in my eyes, painfully crying with tears that screamed, 'Mom, save me from this experience!' It was impossible for Luciano to understand my



actions were purely from love and for his own growth long-term. And indeed, the tests gave us the information we needed to make corrections for his betterment.



I wonder how often we are like this with our Heavenly Father as we cry out to Him asking, “Why are we experiencing so much pain? What are you doing? Why don’t you love me enough to save me right now? Don’t you know how much this hurts me? This is crushing me!”

Charles Spurgeon said, “God is too good to be unkind, and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.”

Oh my sweet friends, yes, God loves you more than you could ever comprehend. And the healing answer to every moment of pain in our lives is to surrender everything to God. Christ tells us in *Luke 9:23-24*, “*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow me.*” Dying to ourselves takes conscious daily effort of denying sin any space in our lives.

That is not easy. And yet, growth in our relationship with God is the reward of that beautiful, and sometimes painful, toil.

As I look in the eyes of my healthy adult son now, I know I made the right decision for him to endure pain as a newborn so he could be where he is today.

God, as our most loving Father, must feel the same way as we face battles that, when we surrender to Him, will ultimately bring us closer to salvation.



*My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)*

With all our love,

*Tom & Joyce*