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Dear Friends,



No true new beginning is possible until you seem to be standing with a shut door facing you. Also that when you have passed through the door you cannot expect to be quite yet out of the shadows. New beginnings grow slowly.

Elizabeth Goudge, The Joy of the Snow



On Easter Sunday, Clay experienced over an hour of intense pain in his chest and left arm, sweating profusely and immobilized in our son's rocking chair. He often sits there when we are visiting, and dozes off sometimes, while the rest of us are in and out of the house after our meal. So no one noticed anything unusual, and Clay didn't say anything about it, thinking it was a bad case of indigestion. Later that evening on the drive home, I noticed he looked pale and

extremely tired, so I asked Clay how he was doing. After he told me what happened, I absolutely insisted that he call his doctor first thing Monday and get in for a check-up. Clay said I was overreacting, as the pain was completely gone, and reminded me he had recently had a complete physical with no signs of any trouble. I would not back down, and to please me, Clay finally agreed to at least call the doctor.

The doctor had him come in right away, and told Clay that if he had seen him right after it occurred, he would have put him in the hospital. As he was in no pain, he instead ran several tests and said he would call him with the results. We did not expect him to call back himself in just a few hours, with a bad report on his ekg, and informing Clay he had made an appointment with a specialist on Thursday. The cardiologist also said that Clay's ekg was 'very troublesome,' and to immediately put a stop to all activity, counseling, and traveling, and scheduled Clay for a heart cath on Tuesday, April 30th, one day before his 65th birthday.

Clay and I both were at peace about all this, knowing the Lord had us in His hands. He went in at 7:45 am that morning, and was supposed to be home later that afternoon. Little did we know that he would have a heart attack and be hospitalized for several days. What is amazing through all this is that Clay has had NO pain since Easter Sunday. Absolutely none! He spent his birthday in Neuro ICU as we sang 'Happy Birthday' and celebrated Poppa's gift of LIFE to him – the best birthday present ever!

The heart cath found two 90% blockages, one in the LAD (otherwise known as the widow-maker) and the other in the right coronary artery. The doctor stented the LAD without problem, but the right coronary artery was tortuous and difficult. The guide wire penetrated the first layer of the artery, and the stent could not be placed at all. He attempted once or twice more, but without success. Clay went into cardiac arrest at this point in the procedure. His right coronary artery is still blocked and also damaged. The doctor said he will be treated medically, as a bypass is not appropriate for this particular situation. He also said that Clay should have normal heart function after a prolonged time of healing with continued medical treatment. Thank the Lord!

Clay is now home, stable, still in no pain, yet tires very easily. Overall, he is doing well, more frustrated now that he is feeling better, but still under doctor's orders to go slow. He can do local driving, begins physical therapy next week at the hospital, yet no ministry trips, no travel, no stress for the next six months. He must remain on all meds for at least one year, with check-ups every two months. He also must postpone his final dental work for at least six months, and continue his daily naps.

For the first time in 28 years, we have cancelled our annual 'His Healing Presence' retreat conference for this August. Clay will still be recording Nightlight, writing, and researching as he embarks on this healing journey of new beginnings.



To wait upon God is the perfection of activity. Oswald Chambers, The Place of Help

My soul, wait silently for God alone,

For my expectation is from Him.

He only is my rock and my salvation;

He is my defense; I shall not be moved.

In God is my salvation and my glory;

The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.

Trust in Him at all times, you people;

Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

Selah

Psalm 62: 5-8

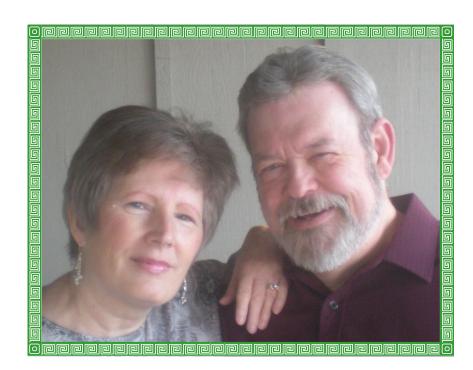


Closing Thoughts...



New beginnings grow slowly. We are not quite yet out of the shadows of Clay's heart attack. It will be a slow healing process, but a good prognosis. We value your prayers during this time of renewal and restoration for Clay. We are both peaceful and trusting the Lord as we go forward. How thankful we are for the Easter Sunday warning sign of Clay's pain. Pain means that something is not right; find out what it is, and if possible, put it right! Please refrain from phone calls; emails and cards are very welcome. We love you all!

In His Hands, Clay & Mary







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