



## ROUGH ROAD



To say that the months of September 2017 until January 2018 were a journey is an understatement. I was faced with an inevitable outcome that I was sure would be the worst day of my life. My dad had been in a battle with Alzheimer's Disease since 2008. It was a battle that I had been through with my grandfather, but this time I found myself IN the fight, not just going through it.

This was different. I am a daddy's girl, and this was a fight that I knew would end in his death.

As time went on and the effects of the disease continued to blur the edges of the dad that I once knew, I was sure of one thing: it was time for me to put on the FULL ARMOR of God. It was clear that I would not be victorious in this battle by leaving any part of that armor on the shelf. My father's ultimate death would not be a determining factor in whether I could claim the victory, though. How I came out

of this battle would! If I emerged in defeat because of the outcome, then the battle would have been for naught. I had to summon the Power that works within me to help me through.

As I mentioned before, I had been through the process of this disease before with my Grandfather. This time though, more was required of me. More sacrifices would have to be made, in order to reap the blessing that this experience had in store for me. YES, there was a blessing that I could not foresee! I was going to go through a process that took me across some rough terrain: potholes, speed bumps, and detours. Each time I encountered a situation that “slowed me down”, it was always accompanied by a lesson that I will never forget. Pastor Evans has a saying that goes something like this, *“If all you see is what you see then you have not seen all that there is to see.”*. In my situation, truer words had not been spoken before.

I was privy to a front row seat to Romans 8:28 playing out before my eyes. I was able to connect things that occurred in 1994 to what was happening in 2018. Talk about ALL things working together! WOW!!! Had I not taken care of my Grandfather, I would not have been prepared for what was happening to my Dad. Had I not been familiar with the effects of Alzheimer’s on its victim, I would not have been able to understand the nuances of the changes in my Dad. Had I not recognized early in his disease that I would have to sacrifice, at some point, time to help care for him, I would not have been prepared with the eleventh hour requirement to relocate to New York for six months, leaving “my life” behind. Had I not responded to the call of the Holy Spirit and God’s command to honor my mother and father, I would not have reaped the blessing of seeing how God does everything with excellence, no matter how rough the road may look on the surface. I would not have learned the lesson to look deeper than what my eyes could see. I would not have been able to bear the death of my father with the joy that he was released to a realm of perfection in mind and body, dwelling in the presence of the Most High.

Although the road was not one that I would have chosen to travel, it was exactly the path that God had determined for me. The fact that I was able to recognize that He was the one driving, made the journey one that I would not trade for

anything. The passenger side gives you the opportunity to soak in and enjoy the scenery along the way. I pray that, like me, you are able to SEE God's Word play out in your life. It is worth the trip.

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### **THIS MONTH'S VERSE FOR MEMORY/MEDITATION:**

*"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."*

**Romans 8:28**

### **APRIL PRAYER FOCUS**

April is National Couples Month. Pray for marriages, the Victorious Marriage Summit and all the staff and volunteers that are working to bring this summit together!

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