

General Topics :: Beautiful?

Beautiful? - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2014/8/19 14:37

I would like to share something here that has bothered me a lot. I imagine it could offend some but please hear me out.

I am on Facebook, have some friends, many of whom hang from my family tree. Among them are those who will post - what do you call them - beautiful 'cards' - bragging about how beautiful autistic people are, how beautiful down's syndrome children are, what a wonderful blessing they are to their home, etc. However, I never see any cards informing people how beautiful cancer is, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimers, etc. - what a great blessing it is to be thus afflicted.

I am very uneasy with the message of these 'cards'. (Can someone please tell me what the correct name is for these 'cards'?) Why is this so? I know the victim's families are working hard to get 'normal' people to accept the differences some are born with, to make room for them in society. I have no problem with that. My problem is this affliction occurs because of sin in the garden, like any other affliction, be it cancer, Parkinsons, etc. and why should one celebrate the natural consequences of sin?

And you know what? I cannot say much about this because our son-in-law also has a downs child. I also know he is not normal, requires special education, special consideration in many different ways that rattle some people - some justified and others not. I also know our son-in-law's family will be burdened with the care of this child as long as he lives. Some downs victims are intelligent and others cannot speak well, like this child. In my heart I feel so sorry that our SIL is thus burdened with the care of this child - he has had enough afflictions to deal with in his life without this one. It is an affliction, a burden. Yet, they would say he is a blessing. If he is such a wonderful blessing, how's come others do not see it as such? Others outside looking in do not comprehend any blessings.

This child deserves to be loved, cared for just like any other person who is normal or afflicted. The demands an afflicted person imposes upon the family will test their mettle to the max. Yet, God allowed it and He is there.

Is there a balance one can achieve between celebrating certain afflictions and still recognize the realities of it? Rather than convincing others how beautiful birth defects are, these promotions are having the opposite effect.

I guess I sense the victims' families are not being totally honest about this issue and this troubles me more than anything else. It would be refreshing for a parent of such a child to be totally honest about their struggle with this affliction.

If you disagree with me, that is ok. I will not debate this issue. I have thought long and hard on this issue and I am troubled by it on either side of it.

I suppose Frank will say something to say...just hope he will not be offended. God bless.

ginnyrose

Re: Beautiful? - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/8/19 14:48

A parent posting these things already knows that everyone else knows that it is a difficult thing to raise such a child. It seems they are just trying to make the best of the hand they have been dealt. Everyone reading the post can be sympathetic but they are secretly thankful that it is someone else's problem.

I don't think a parent should have to explain that their disabled child is exhibit #1 that we live in a fallen world. Indeed many would consider the child a blessing.

I know others here will disagree but I would argue that cancer and other diseases are never a blessing. I for one would never post about how blessed I was, if I was diagnosed with some dreaded disease.

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2014/8/19 17:57

TMK,

QUOTE:

I would argue that cancer and other diseases are never a blessing

I agree. Our only daughter was a cancer victim...the stress our family endured was natural, normal. Yet God was with us. I would never wish the disease on anyone, no one. We did experience the supernatural grace of God and THIS was a blessing, but the disease was not.

I anticipate a time where there will be no birth defects, no mental retardation, no disease. These disorders came about because of sin in the garden and we today are still victims. These afflictions serve as a reminder of our fallen state, that the consequences of sin have far reaching implications.

The WORD teaches us in Proverbs 10:22: "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." This verse is teaching me - what is a blessing and what is a trial.

Re: Beautiful? - posted by romanchog (), on: 2014/8/19 21:54

Can we see beyond this the sovereignty of God, and His allowing such a child to be born with the disability? I heard the story of one mother who was despairing that her child was born with Down's syndrome, wondering what she had done that God would allow this in her life, as if it was a punishment. Her brother called her up and to her surprise he said, "I am so proud that God would trust you with such a special child."

If we take our eyes off Christ, we only see the negative in things. That is our greatest failure.

As to thanking God for cancer, I will say when my husband found out that he had cancer, he rejoiced because, as he said it, if he survived it, the experience would finally destroy his flesh and make him totally trust Christ; and he didn't survive it, he would go and see His Lord.

Just as ginnyrose, however, I would never want to see anyone else go through that ever again. Yet, I can still say that even in cancer GOD IS GOOD, so if God allowed it, cancer was good for us.

God Bless.

Re: beautiful! - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2014/8/19 22:14

For the past couple years I have been with my handicapped daughter nearly every Monday night attending a church service set up for handicapped adults. Never saw this coming, but recently the board fired the pastor! The man who 14 years ago birthed the ministry, wrote the letters, raised the support, visited the sick ones in the hospital, cried with the broken hearted at their care homes- ????

So I spoke with one of the board members, looking for that financial or sexual smoking gun that might have prompted the move. Nothing. For no legitimate reason they stripped him of his own work, broke the hearts of the confused attendees, and essentially stole the ministry.

I had been just one of the Dads attending, even though I had been able to preach several times. It is a lot of fun to preach to this fascinating crowd of mixed ages, genders, and learning levels- gotta keep it simple, fun, short, and full of Jesus!

But I knew immediately where the anointing rested, on the pastor. He wants to continue the work, so I have joined him to put together a new ministry to these precious and I must say Beautiful people. We are excited, we're meeting at the pastor's parents' home for now while we search out a venue. There is a lot of enthusiasm, but no money. God has to make it work, and we are eager to watch that all happen. We know God will provide for these special people, we have already seen it.

General Topics :: Beautiful?

Last Sunday I visited a church located in the heart of the area where we want to be, close to bus lines and the like. Another daughter knows this pastor and his wife, so she had sent them an email about what we were looking for. When I chatted with him briefly after the service he told me he had just been at a conference where the leadership told the pastors attending that they needed to give attention to the special needs people in their neighborhoods. Who'd a thunk??

We had a moment! It was cool!

Nothing happening yet with that, but we do have about 35 folks attending the home meeting right now. There are attention issues, bathroom issues, personality conflicts, and they love to "dance" during the worship. Everything is distracting, everyone is distracted, and Jesus is worshipped with abandon!

It is the most fun church I have ever been involved with, can't wait for the next meeting, can't wait to hug again some of the most beautiful people on the planet!

Re: Beautiful? - posted by crusader (), on: 2014/8/19 22:49

My wife works with people that are so complexed that they normally can't interact at all with people in society. Her love for the people that she works with amazed me as she is only a new Christian. She sees past the affliction and looks at the heart and needs of the person and absolutely delights when connections are made. My wife has recovered from a serious mental health issue in her past and had to endure years of people treating her by her condition and not her heart. Going through this God gave her a gift to see past the obvious afflictions that non-Christians see.

We personally don't see an autistic child or a Down Syndrome child and never focus on this but rather what they are needing in their heart. It's not sympathy that we give it is love and equal respect as fellow children of God. What I have found is that it builds our spiritual discernment up and moves us more everyday to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance. I don't participate in awareness programs as they tend to distract our thoughts away from what God's.

In a conference I stood up once and said that the client's disability is not theirs, it is ours and we need to learn how to communicate and help.

My niece just learnt that she got MS and while everyone is sending her sad messages as if her life is over. I asked her if she will allow me to seek what God wants to do. (I didn't know if she would respond to this well) she thanked me and asked if I could pray for her. The door was opened for God to show his Glory somehow in the future.

Re: Beautiful? - posted by Giggles (), on: 2014/8/20 1:22

Psalms 127:3 unequivocally states children are a blessing from God.

Re: Beautiful?, on: 2014/8/20 3:02

Quote:

-----by ginnyrose on 2014/8/19 14:37:10

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I suppose Frank will say something to say...just hope he will not be offended. God bless.

Perhaps I can shed some light on the subject, being one of the Beautiful People in that I am on the autistic spectrum.

First of all, there is no correlation between a serious sickness and a genetic disorder like autism and Down's. The first person is classed as 'normal' but has contracted an illness and in some cases there will be a spiritual growth from the suffering but oftentimes there is not and there is anger instead. The sickness is no guarantee that it will be a blessing and in itself, it is not.

However, it is a different situation with people who have a developmental disorder which is usually classed as a disability but in reality, the disability is due to society being set up for and accepting of a certain type of 'normality' which excludes the people who have the disorder. It is the so called normal people who cause most of the problems for the different ones due to them thinking that someone in their eyes who is retarded, has no worth and that they are a 'burden' as you Ginnyrose said in your own words. I am sure that you s-i-l does not see it in this way. The families are indeed blessed to have one of these special people, and unfortunately for some of us, were not thought of as a blessing.

The truth is that these people have great value and have very positive qualities which usually only their close family see though some companies have become enlightened and will only employ ASD's.

Having spent some time on the autism forums, I can tell you that people on the spectrum say that most of their problems are due to having to deal with 'normal people' that is, neurotypical people and the main complaint apart from the huge misunderstanding about the condition, is that: neurotypicals are not honest and care more about relationships with others and keeping on the good side of them, more than desiring for and speaking the truth which an ASD will put first. They find it very hard to lie and to see others lie so easily and frequently and be so hypercritical, causes upset. They are also very loyal to others.

So it is not just a matter of being marginalised, which takes place all of the time, there are great difficulties regarding dealing with others for people whose brain has developed in a different manner which also makes them often more intelligent and logical even due to early increase in brain function, if it does not show and certainly will not show up educationally where the system is set up so that 'normal' people will flourish so they will underachieve.

I found that in school, I required an oversight on the subject before I could get down to learning the parts but by the time I had worked out the oversight on my own, it was too late for me to catch up with the others, to give a small example. I also needed to know whether the information was necessary to learn and made sense and if not, could not motivate myself to it.

So Ginnyrose, I believe that it is a good thing to let others know that these people are very special and if I dare say it, are more pure, innocent, loving and without guile than the normal person who has no neurological disability, and in fact the world would be a better place if they were recognised for the gifts they have and what they can teach the 'normal' ones, instead of being locked away and imagined to be burdens because they have different needs and find it so hard to cope because of the way society has been set up which often prevents them from becoming independent. Parents of these children see this clearly.

Re: - posted by yuehan, on: 2014/8/20 3:23

Hi Ginny,

Quote:
-----The WORD teaches us in Proverbs 10:22: "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." This verse is teaching me - what is a blessing and what is a trial.

Would you consider trials to be blessings in a different guise?

Re: Beautiful - posted by BonnieJane (), on: 2014/9/1 18:00

In the church I grew up in there was an adult blind person. I never saw anyone talk to her or interact in any way. As a child I took my cues from the adults and didn't speak to her either. In the years since I would occasionally think of her and cringe in shame for having been a part of that scene. This summer I visited my Aunt who now lives in a personal care home. I was delighted to be introduced to this blind lady and realize it was the same person that I met as a girl. I introduced myself and we talked. I asked her to forgive me for not talking to her way back then. I don't remember her reply but I felt vindicated.

We have a severely handicapped girl in my church now. I am so blessed to see people reach, touch her, say her name and chat. Everyone would and will miss her when she is gone. When her parents visit other churches, the hardest part is to watch their daughter being ignored. In the mean time her mother has been changing her diapers for right at 30 years.

Maybe the beauty is in our own growth in being kind and helpful to those who can't return our gestures.

I have a blind grandson. He is quite possibly the most intelligent of my ten grandchildren. His Mother is one special lady. She was determined that he learn to function to the best of his abilities. He fought her the whole way. Today he is a computer geek. He does medical transcribing. BUT he still sees no reason why he should turn his head toward the person he is talking to! His hearing is pronominal and mine isn't so we clash over this subject quite frequently!

Gog bless....

Re: Beautiful?, on: 2014/9/1 19:26

Cancer, affliction, burden, victim. These are not words I would describe for myself or for my son. I simply feel sad for those who would see things in such a light, or to be more correct, darkness.

I have testified many times as to my struggle in the first three days of my son's life and then God came and spoke to me in a manner of such clarity that I have not had since. He said "I have given you a perfect gift from the treasures of heaven."

Now, who would I listen to? The council of the ill-informed or the Lord? God has richly blessed my family and every single person that Daniel has ever come in contact with. No, this extra chromosome that Daniel has does not allow him to see any child in the same light as a cancer or a burden. He has better eyes than most when it comes to spiritual things, although more of the world would see the world as Daniel sees it. My prayers are for Ginnyrose, what a sad commentary.....
..bro Frank

Re: , on: 2014/9/1 19:27

Brenda writes.....

"So Ginnyrose, I believe that it is a good thing to let others know that these people are very special and if I dare say it, are more pure, innocent, loving and without guile than the normal person who has no neurological disability, and in fact the world would be a better place if they were recognised for the gifts they have and what they can teach the 'normal' ones, instead of being locked away and imagined to be burdens because they have different needs and find it so hard to cope because of the way society has been set up which often prevents them from becoming independent. Parents of these children

children see this clearly."

Amen sister.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2014/9/2 3:20

Thanks Frank.

BonnieJane, it is very sad indeed to see people who have been born with disabilities and blindness is especially sad, but the subject of this 'beauty' is not sickness nor physical disability, though of course people like this can be gentle and loving. However they are often 'normal' neurologically apart from the disability. They do also require physical help from others and could not operate generally unless they get it and often are not in a position to offer anything to the world as a rule.

The OP is not about those but is about those whose brains have developed in a different way because of their neurology which is what you find in autism and it is a developmental disorder not an illness or disability as such. In these people you find a lack of social awareness and the need to fit in which brings about 'office politics' and 'street cred' which these people just don't get as these 'normal' activities involve hiding the true self, and having a 'front' or public face, as they remain like young children in that way, and are utterly honest and open in the way that neurologically typical people aren't. They are also incredibly loyal.

This is what gives them their beauty. I am not saying that they are not sinners and need to be saved, as they still need to be in obedience to Christ and accept Him as their saviour, but these people bring something really special into the lives of those who are close to them and it should be recognised that they are not a burden as in the physically handicapped and sick, and even have something to teach the NT's of the world instead of being lumped together with the disabled.

Autistics are also often very intelligent as the brain has grown a lot more connections in the early period of development and therefore have a great deal to offer the world. They do need a lot of special care when young and where their neurological system is still hypersensitive and unfortunately they are often classed as mentally handicapped and put on medications which end up causing damage to the delicate brain and this issue needs to be more understood. Especially now as numbers are multiplying fast some think due to the increase of toxins causing inherited gene mutations to be expressed rather than silenced. I was very fortunate and was not medicated.

The world is missing a huge resource in these people as their ability to lose themselves entirely in an interest, which is sometimes called obsession, means they can be much more productive in the workplace. I think that in the future, we will see more attempts to educate the world about the 'beautiful people'.

Re: - posted by dfella (), on: 2014/9/2 7:14

Has anyone seen this video of a blind autistic boy sing, "Open The Eyes of my Heart" ?

The beauty that God brings out of such a situation is the fact that God has blessed this boy with a family who loves and cares for him. In turn God uses these precious souls to bless the God-given care givers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPTMA7Hllyk>

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2014/9/2 16:07

Frank, I am just so sad about these situations and grieve. I always want to fix what is wrong and there is no fixing to be done...feel so helpless....

Re: Fixing - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2014/9/2 22:47

Sandra, your posts fix things you have no way of knowing are broken!

You bring a sweet but powerful credibility to every topic you touch, revealing a relationship with God that inspires.

Thank you, and post away!

Re: Beautiful Sidewalk's 1st post - posted by Jasmine, on: 2014/9/3 0:14

Your post both makes me laugh and weep at the same time AND that is a good thing!

Re: , on: 2014/9/3 9:37

Ginnyrose writes.....

"I guess I sense the victims' families are not being totally honest about this issue and this troubles me more than anything else. It would be refreshing for a parent of such a child to be totally honest about their struggle with this affliction."

Sister, did you ever consider it better not to comment on things you simply have no understanding of? The words you used in your OP for most would be deeply offensive and clumsy. I have been around the special needs community for over 20 years and obviously have a special needs child myself. Your words bear no reality to my own situation nor the majority of people I personally know. Now I do know some folks who simply cannot bear a situation, not necessarily special needs, and end up being angry at God and walking away and living the rest of their lives in bitterness and devoid of joy and peace. And some hide this better than others, but bitterness, like cancer (a proper analogy of cancer, not special needs children) always comes to the surface.

My advice sister, do not speak on matters that you have no personal knowledge of. Do not "guess," on these things, it has great potential for unnecessary damage. The last time special needs children were openly connected to sin was back in Salem's day when the children were often killed at birth and the parents burned as witches.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2014/9/3 10:43

I know, suspect some may feel I was a tad bit harsh, don't blame them really. But I have witnessed my sister-in-law caring for her husband who was a victim of post-polio-syndrome; I saw our daughter-in-law care for a baby born with cleft palate and harelip, severely disfigured, baby crying because his sucking ability was severely impaired... Beautiful? No.

And then there is our son-in-law who has a downs child...does not talk well, have problems finding a school that will do him good....Difficult, very difficult.

Today, my BIL has passed onto his reward - now he is in the realm of absolute Beauty.

Today our grandson has had numerous reconstructive surgeries to fix his mouth, gums, lip and there are more to come. But he does well and is an expert whistler! He cannot understand why this grandma cannot whistle - it is so easy, "you just do it like this..." But I do not have the misshapen mouth he has had.

Reckon God allowed this to remind us how destructive sin is and how it effects one's DNA - all of life is marred.

Thank-you, Sidewalk for your encouraging post. (I may not have said so, but I do appreciate your insights as well.)

Sandra

Re: , on: 2014/9/3 12:08

What I love about the Lord our God is that He makes beauty from the ashes. Now, certainly it takes eyes to see what the Lord can and does do. When our eyes are on the Lord then darkness flees in the light of His beauty and whatever His beauty shines on becomes beautiful. When we look through the eyes of the flesh oftentimes all things are perceived darkly and in this there is no beauty. To praise God in the depths of the dungeon is a glorious thing, more glorious than praising Him on the mountaintops. See the power of God fall upon Paul as He praises God in the midnight hour in the depths of his afflictions. There is a deep spiritual lesson here as we witness Paul praising God and being full of joy where there should be no joy. See the saints down through the centuries praise God in the depths of their situations, even as flames li

cked around their mortal bodies. Even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, God makes us to lie down in green pastures. He prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies, in their presence mind you, and goodness and mercy and love and joy follow those saints all the days of their lives. What a witness it is to the world to rejoice in God when nothing is going our way and we seem to have all the troubles and the burdens of the world on our shoulders, but of course, if we shall, we lay it upon His shoulders and we cast our cares upon Him and our burdens become light in the beauty and grace of His presence and there is rest for our souls. Paul would rather talk about his infirmities that God be glorified. May God be glorified in our own conversations with each other and the world.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2014/9/3 12:44

Greetings

I have hesitated to come into this thread. I have to admit though there have been times when I have been out and about when I have watched those with disability struggle that my heart just breaks. I find myself struggling with tears because I know that was not how GOD desired things to be for us. Sickness, infirmity, disability, aging, death, these are things brought into the earth after the fall.

A long time ago I knew a boy in school his name was Tony. He was a lovely person, handicapped mentally but filled with love. His smile used to make me smile, but it also made me sad. I can't fully explain why except to say that somewhere in my heart I knew Tony was not how GOD intended him to be. As I grew older I realized I wasn't how GOD intended me to be either. We both struggled, had trials, and sorrows in our lives because of the fall of man...yet at the end of the day we both have value to JESUS. HE looked down from the cross and saw Tony, then HE saw me and HE forgave us. HE loved us mightily and I give thanks to HIM for that.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder they say and I think that is true. I saw beauty in Tony often in the short time I knew him. I have seen beauty in many surprising places in my life time. I was in the dentist office a few years back and a very elderly couple came in, this woman was very old and she struggled with getting around. You could see she needed help with even the smallest of tasks. Tears sprang to my eyes because I knew it wasn't what GOD desired for us and yet I saw such beauty when moments later her husband who was elderly also came in and faithfully helped her take off her coat, mittens, and cap. He guided her over to the chair and made sure she was comfortable. The love he had for her was beautiful. Perhaps as we grow in JESUS HE allows us to see both the result of sin in the world around us because of the fall, and the beauty of HIS loving kindness and mercy HE has for us. I have always felt the truly beautiful things in life are those things that cause me to think upon JESUS, to look to HIM...

God bless
maryjane

Re: Update - posted by Sidewalk (), on: 2014/9/3 23:00

Several days ago I posted about our efforts to put a church meeting together for Special Needs (Oh how important the terminology is these days!) adults in my area near San Diego California.

We are pleased to report that we have found a building, a church that is willing to let us in on Monday nights, all the equipment to hold a great service with worship, preaching, and the always important snacks afterward!

So if you have an interest in this kind of ministry and are visiting in Southern California, let me know and come see it in action!

You have probably never been to a more fun church service... I know I haven't!

Re: , on: 2014/9/4 0:43

double post

Re: , on: 2014/9/4 0:43

Sister, I am glad you started this thread. I pray that you will listen very carefully to those who may know something about this subject so that you can grow in your understanding of the heart of God.

Do you know how many people view pregnancies that have come about as the result of sin...as an affliction? They see that the child will be a burden, and of course you know what they do...they get rid of that affliction, that terrible burden, they wipe it off the face of the earth!

The only thing wrong with the so called "victims families" is that they do not yet know the fullness of the love of God, they are unable to receive from God the love and patience and long suffering and joy that they will need to not only cope with such a birth, but to go on to see this child as a blessing in their lives...just as my brother Frank has pointed out.

We had the joy of adopting a little boy from China who was horrifically burned in a fire. We brought him home to Texas to receive medical care and he is doing great. What a joy and what a privilege to be able to raise and love and make comfortable the life of one so "afflicted". Sister, it does not matter what the source of the trouble that has brought about this "problem" for these children, we are to simply pour the love of God out into them.

Now, we have friends who have adopted 6 Chinese babies, all with missing limbs and cleft palates, but you know something. That family sees it as a huge blessing to help these little children. And the reason that they are able to do this is because the love of God has been shed abroad in their hearts.

What a beautiful thing that is!

See, you got one thing right...the title of your post, beautiful:) Yep, to love the unlovable with God's majestic love is the most beautiful thing in the universe, and is the closest thing you or I could ever come to knowing the love of God for poor, afflicted humanity. I pray the Lord will help you sister and open your eyes to this and show His love to you in a new way as you struggle to understand this. God bless you!

Re: , on: 2014/9/4 7:50

Hey bro Mark, what a wonderful post. God bless you. Over the years I have always marveled at adoption. It is certainly one thing to discover the joy and the beauty of God's love for "the least" among us when they are our children, but to adopt these children has the touch of God to it.

We actually know a family who adopted two Down Syndrome children, quite simply marvelous. The love of God shed abroad in the hearts of men is nowhere better demonstrated, in my opinion, than in the hearts of those who adopt children with "afflictions," or special needs. If there are rewards in heaven, and I am not a big believer in specific rewards, the presence of God eternally being the greatest reward there could be, but if there is :) then this I know, I am coming to visit guys like you in your great big mansion and then return to my little shack :)

Yes indeed, the title of the post is correct. Such deep beauty to be found in what the world considers to be of no value yet God considers to be of priceless. I often tell the story of what happened to me just three days after Daniel was born. The context is that I had just become a Christian two years previously. My first son had died and my second son had been burned, third degree burns, over 60% of his body. Now that I was a Christian I felt so sure in my spirit that God would bless me with the desire of my heart, a little girl. Not only was it not a little girl, but my child had Down Syndrome. And not only Down Syndrome, but was seriously ill as well. He was born on the Friday and my heart was cold. I went to church on the Sunday, desperate for some answers and a touch from God. After singing one song "God will make a way where there seems to be no way," everyone sat down. Typically we would worship for about 30 minutes. It was then that I realized it was baby dedication week, which only happened a couple of times a year. I wondered if salt was being added to my wounds.

There was an empty seat next to me, and as the singing began again, the person reached over and handed me a note. Puzzled, I took the note and read it, looking down to the aisle and seeing the young woman who had passed it down. The note read "I could not help noticing that you were crying, is there something I can pray with you about?" I was genuinely irritated with this note. I did not want to talk to anyone. Yet, there she was, staring, and there was the empty seat beside me, so I reluctantly beckoned her over. She sat down and asked "what is wrong?" I told her "I just had a child and he has Down Syndrome." She looked at me puzzled like she had no idea what Down Syndrome was. This angered me as I really did not know much about it either and I had zero desire to explain anything to this young woman. Suddenly, in a

moment of time, God came down. I could no longer see this young woman. Her face seemed to disappear into a great light. Now it seemed to me that this light was Jesus and I could not see a face but I could make out certain features and I saw that He had a puzzled look on his face as well. And here is what He said to me, in the clearest fashion I have ever heard God speak to me before or since " Frank, I do not know what Down Syndrome is either, all I know is that I have given you a perfect gift from the treasures of heaven."

These words ran so counter to everything I had been feeling but they penetrated my heart to its very core. There was an explosion within my heart of love for my son which has never left me. Yes Sandra, a perfect gift from the treasures of heaven which has blessed me in too many ways to mention here. Daniel also saved our marriage for it drew two very independent people together as we realized how much we were going to need each other. Only the God of heaven above would prescribe such a son for two very dysfunctional people, praise Him. The irony is, our " normal son," has caused us much heartache over the years with his rebellion and sin and the whole time, Daniel has been a healing balm. Oh the love and the beauty and the mystery of God, it is truly a marvel to behold. It is the beauty of Holiness.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by Heydave (), on: 2014/9/4 9:59

I would just like to defend our sister Sandra here (she probably does not need me to). I do feel that folk are being unreasonable hard on her.

Please read her first post again and you can see these are certainly just legitimate questions that Sandra has and she made it clear she was not wanting to deliberately offend anyone here. I just see that this was an honest enquiry based on someone who has experienced their own issues with family members and wonders why there is a difference in how different disabilities are viewed.

I take no position either way in the discussion and do not want to talk about something I have no experience of. I just think people should be able to ask questions if they are with the right motive and in the right spirit, which this was.

Please show a bit more graciousness.

Re: , on: 2014/9/4 10:54

Hi Dave, when you liken people's children to cancer and Parkinson's disease, you are going to get a strong reply. There is a great deal of unawareness in the world over many issues, including special needs issues.

Even with the right motives, I am sure you would agree that there is a necessity on the part of any Christian for sensitivity to the issue. Words are important. Even your own last comment shows a certain lack of sensitivity to children being likened to cancer for you choose to ignore that part of the OP. It's really not a big deal to me, all I am saying is that Sandra is simply wrong in her comparison to children and cancer and the implication that there is no beauty in these children, rather that they are afflictions..... bro Frank