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Trusting God

LESSONS LEARNED WHEN GOD SAYS “NO”

BY REBECCA OVERSTREET

I’ve noticed that most people are afraid of change. Let’s just say that in my seventh- and eighth-grade years, I was not enjoying the changes in my life at all.

The summer before seventh grade, I moved to Michigan, and left all my friends behind. I was not happy about moving, but when I arrived, I met Andrew*. Andrew and I grew quite close, which is why my heart was broken when he told me the news that his younger brother had been diagnosed with cancer and had only a few months left to live.

Only 12 at the time, I didn’t know how to handle this. There were a lot of other situations going on in my life that were very hard for me, and it all became too much. I felt like I was drowning. I sat on my bed for hours the night I found out about my friend’s brother. Hour after hour, I poured out my heart to God, telling him how much I needed some help or comfort — anything, really. And hour after hour, I got nothing in response.

I, along with everyone at the school we attended, spent many days pleading for Andrew’s brother to get better. It didn’t happen. Andrew’s brother passed away. I prayed harder than ever for solace; yet, I still felt empty. Eventually, I became angry. One night, I told God that I was done. I was done hoping, done praying, and done believing.

At that point, I don’t think anybody understood how much pain I felt. My nights got longer, my sadness grew greater, and my heart became harder. I wish I could tell you there was some big moment when I came running



Rebecca Overstreet

back to God and accepted everything that happened, but it didn’t happen like that.

Honestly, it’s true that time heals. My heart eventually became happier, to the point where I could begin to trust and believe in God again. I realized I expected God to comfort me differently than he was. I expected him magically to give me a feeling of peace but, instead, he sent people and circumstances into my life to help and lead me back to him.

I thought all this change would be the end of me, but here I am, three years later, still growing and learning more about how to trust God in both good and bad times. God is patient, and I am learning more and more that I can trust him even when he doesn’t do what I think he should.

Sometimes, I think that people focus too much on the times in the Bible or in other people’s lives when God answers prayer in a miraculous way. I am learning that I can trust God even when the miracle I am hoping for doesn’t happen. It’s a hard lesson, and I don’t like it very much sometimes, but God is helping me learn.

Rebecca Overstreet is a sophomore at Andrews Academy.

*Not his real name