



Receiving...and Giving Week 49 December 5-11

Last year I had surgery to remove my gallbladder. I was surprised at how limited I was in the first few days following my surgery. I needed help for so many things that I had taken for granted before, like getting up from a seated position, getting into bed, pushing my chair up to the dining room table, changing my socks, tying my shoes, and drying off after a shower. And if I dropped anything on the floor, I couldn't bend over to pick it up. I did not realize how many activities required use of my abdominal muscles, or how limited I would be as those muscles recovered.

Had it not been for my mother's help during this time, I don't know how I would have gotten through those first few days. She was the one kneeling on the floor to change my socks, gently pushing my chair up to the table, helping me into bed at night, and picking up the many items I managed to drop on the floor. It was quite humbling to need help completing these simple tasks, but it was also quite a blessing. I saw Jesus in my mother's kind acts of love. He was right there with us, every minute.

We often struggle to ask for help, and being the receiver instead of the giver can be difficult. Having my gallbladder removed was actually a powerful lesson in giving and receiving. Here is what I learned: giving and receiving are not mutually exclusive. The person who gives is also receiving, and the person who receives is also giving, for the recipient of the giver's kindness is offering the giver the opportunity to serve. Jesus tells us that when we help those in need, we are helping Him (Matthew 25:31-40). He is right there with us, and both the giver who receives and the receiver who gives share equally in this blessing.

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Scripture:

Matthew 25:31-40

Luke 6:38

Romans 12:8

2 Corinthians 9:7

1 Peter 4:10

Romans 12:13

2 Corinthians 8:12-14