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Words of Wisdom from a Great Man - By Brenda Harris

Many people are overcome by depression, and this could have been my story. On February 14, 1999 at 8:04 a.m., I watched my father die, but somehow I saw a great peace come over his face, as if his job here was complete, and the pain he suffered for years was gone. Yes it hurt to the deepest parts of my heart and soul, to watch him go, leave me, his baby. At that moment I realized this was not the end. In his last moments he told me to continue living his legacy. To live a God-fearing life, not to take people, and the earth for granted. This a few short days before he was admitted to the hospital, he said to me, "It's time for you to live the greatness as I have." I was an adult with three young children. I did not understand that his statement had such wisdom behind it. This man my father who had suffered 20-plus years in pain, and lived a very poor life -- how could he believe that was greatness? He stated to me that day, I will try to explain now. He proceeded to tell me, Lee, look out that window, what do you see?"

I said, "A mountain."

Then he said "And?"

I said "Clouds, trees, bushes, cactus, and animals."

He said, "Now look in the mirror and what do you see?" I said "me."

Then he told me to look at pictures. I said, "Family."

He said, "Baby girl, which is greatness."

Everything you just looked at is God's greatness. Our greatest gift from him is everything that surrounds us. Not money, not a pain-free life, not even success. It's the beauty we see in the trees, the things we hear our children's laugh, the things we smell apple pie cooking, and taste of the apple pie." On the horrible day that I lost my daddy, I heard his words once again as the peace that came over his face. Every time I start to feel depression near, I'm reminded of those glorious things, God gave us that I had never really seen before, until my dad had pointed these things out that day on his hill. This was the greatest man I have ever known, a man of wisdom, foresight, and intelligence. My only hope is, that I will have all of his greatness, and wisdom, when it comes time for me to explain these things to my adult children.



"Brenda

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