

“Be Prepared!”

In 2 Timothy 4:2a, Paul told Timothy *“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season...”* 1 Peter 3:15 says *“...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...”* Last week I had not one but two opportunities to put these scriptures into action.

Last Wednesday evening, I was going to get ready to go to church when I encountered a neighbor/friend who is battling cancer. We talked for awhile and I asked her how she was doing, and she was feeling frustrated and discouraged, so I tried my best to encourage her, and when she was going to leave, I asked her if I could pray for her; I put my arm around her, put my head against hers and prayed.

When she left she said “I heard you tell Willow you were going to church - did I interrupt that?” I started to say something, but the Holy Ghost took over and I said “No, you didn’t interrupt it, God did, and do you know why? He brought us together because He loves you and knew you needed a little help this evening!”

Friday evening something must have been biting Willow (my dog, for those who don’t know her), because she was running around like a wild woman then would stop and bite at something on her hind quarters. I finally got her outside and onto her back long enough to rake through her fur, but saw nothing. She calmed down, but just to be safe, I took her to the emergency vet clinic.

Thankfully, they didn’t find anything, but did “exercise” her anal glands (eww!). We were released and when the lady was adding up our bill, I found out that although my dog was OK, this lady definitely wasn’t! A close friend had died recently, her Mother was not doing well, and she herself was sick - she was a “hot mess!”

As I struggled with what I should say, the Holy Ghost prompted me to ask her if I could come around behind the counter, lay hands on her and pray for her. She said “No sir, but I will come around to where you are!” So once again I put my arm around someone in need, touched heads with her and prayed for her. I told her God allowed my dog to suffer a minor incident because He loved her (the woman) and knew she needed someone to pray for her, and that me being there wasn’t a coincidence, it was a divine assignment!

I don’t share these stories so you’ll think I’m a spiritual giant, because I assure you I’m not - in my flesh I often want to say a quick “I’ll be praying for you,” and be on my way, but my heart’s cry lately has been to allow the Holy Spirit to have full control of what I say and do, and I’m learning when I look to Him when opportunity knocks, it’s amazing what He can and will do! So...be prepared! Amen!