



## Overcoming the Curse

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

Haven't you sung this verse of Joy To The World almost every year. I have, but I have not looked so deeply at the words until after my caregiver experience. My faithful mom suffered dementia and other challenges as life became hard for her and for me in caring for her. As she struggled with life's changes, it became more difficult to cope and feel at ease with her circumstances. She had said many times she was ready to die and hoped the Lord would take her in her sleep.

In her frustrations she would from time to time lash out at those taking care of her. I came to understand that as she weakened she became less inhibited and lost some self control. She was really a very sweet woman. So I was surprised at the change of her behavior. It would hurt me and my family. I called it the "Old Adam" coming forth. She did not want to do what she did, it just came out. She said many times she did not want to be a burden. Then a few minutes later would become very demanding. Reminded me of Paul's words in I Corinthians 7. "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not, but what I hate I do. I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do -- this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it."

Sin is more than moral failure. It is a corruption in who we are. Sin shows us how weak we are. We prove our weakness in simple things like trying to get ourselves to lose or keep weight off, getting into another tiff with spouse or family, or losing our temper in a store. We are not capable of always controlling ourselves. All this can become exaggerated as we close in on the end of life.

In the midst of all our weakness and sin Christ comes to "make his blessings flow". Christ was present with my mom, even during her difficult times. Christ was present with me and opened my eyes to see the depth of the words of scripture as they applied



to the challenges of caregiving. Christ gave me more insight into what the words of scripture are trying to communicate to us in the difficulty of caregiving.

Caregiving can be an experience of the “curse” that has come to the world, and to us, since the fall. Caregiving can also be an experience of blessings. Christ came to overcome the world. The blessing is more powerful than the curse. The blessings flow far as the curse is found. The curse begins at the fall in Genesis 3. “Curse” is the last word of the Old Testament, Malachi 4:6. There will no longer be any curse as stated in Revelation 22:3 as the end of the New Testament.

If you find those curses plaguing and challenging your caregiving experience, pray that you might see the blessings that Christ so lovingly wants to give. His blessings chase the curses like the hound of heaven as he comes to make His blessings known. Look deeply into what is really being said in scripture that are words really meant just for you.

| <b>What are the curses in your caregiving experience?</b> | <b>How do your intentions and results surprise you?</b> | <b>Name some blessing for which you can thank God?</b> |
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