

Pam's Faithful Walk Reflections

*It will always be a blessing
when you follow through
on what God asks you to do.*

I knew this. I have experienced the deep joy over time of what I call the simple act of "showing up." In friendship, marriage, parenting, hard work ... what seems like a burden, or challenge, or requirement, or duty, through endurance and God's presence, eclipses into a gift of unspeakable joy.

Pam's Faithful Walk was like that. But I didn't know that at the beginning.

At the beginning, I thought it was about walking and making time and hoping for super-secret spiritual insights, albeit raising funds for VP3 and remembering my friend Randy who inspired me so much. I wanted to get a little sense of what Randy might have experienced in his miles and miles of marathon preparation prior to his untimely death.

I didn't know that I was going to be the one who received the blessing.

In the Spring of 2017 God quietly nudged my Spirit to participate in this new idea, "*A Faithful Run*." God gently gave me ideas that fit me...and would be a challenge over time consistent with the discipline of "showing up without fanfare or finish lines" ... but to be faithful.

As I look back now, the biggest take-away is that this was not a burden, or an exercise in strength or physical fitness, or any kind of spotlight.

It was a quiet gift from the Lord.

One of the remarkable details of those 93 consecutive days of a designated three-mile walk, for a total of 311 miles, was that I never was ill—very tired some days—but I never struggled with being sick and I never had a twisted ankle or was lame in any way. Another gift.

Pam's Faithful Walk was bracketed space every single day with the intention of spending time with God. And in doing so, I had the privilege of hearing God say,

"I really like you."

"Stay the course in work and marriage and parenting and friendship."

"There will be hard days, hot days, lots of ordinary days, overly committed, interrupted-by-too-many-people-and-to-do-list-days, but I'm right here."

"Do what you know to be right when you don't feel like it."

"I can be completely trusted."

"I'm with you in it all."

"Relax."

God wants to give us the gift of himself. And when we boundary time we will get more of God. And that will be good. Our circumstances and feelings and desires and thoughts will shift and confuse us, but God will not.

Am I going to do another *Pam's Faithful Walk*? No, I am not planning on it. I have sensed that this was a one-time thing. Even though all of you helped me raise \$8,775.00 for VP3!!

But doing this long steady walk, and the reward and insights of it, have re-calibrated my "next" and deepened my dependence on God and my bucket list of what is required for walking closely with God and others. It has inspired me. To be me. And to seek God in everything big and small. And to include others along the way.

I have been confirmed that the action of God and the glory of God's goodness is not in the spotlight, but in the ordinary.

I have been strengthened in what it is that I am able to do. And when met with future unplanned or undesired requirements for "showing up," I will be better fit to live out of the strength of God's Spirit in me, versus any capacity I could muster up myself.

I have had my faith deepened. God has revealed how desperately he wants to share in my days and dreams. And God has revealed his character even more. Which is very compelling and attractive.

Regarding VP3, my overall sense in the three months of talking and listening with God about particulars and big picture and people, **I sensed from God, "I've got this. Press on. Enjoy."**

And what would my friend Randy be thinking? Well, I've thought about that a lot, too. Because I really miss him. All of us who knew him feel the same. There is a void. I know what Randy would be saying to me, and I think it might sound similar for you...

"You can do more than you think you can do. Trust what God has placed inside you. And trust that God walks with you in every little thing."

And then Randy would add, for each of us, a particular, unique quality, interest, desire, hope or dream, that he, too, believed we can attain. "You can do this," he might say. And like to me, with a smile, the wave of blessing, a prayer, or the peace sign, he would convey, "I'm really proud of you."

In closing, thanks for "walking with me, and us." Every one of you is an encouragement to us. We know the best people. To borrow from Randy, "you would really like each other."

On behalf of VP3, may you find space enough to hear God walking closely with you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam". The script is cursive and fluid, with the letters connected.

*"For we are what he has made us,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."*

Ephesians 2:10